Release of Aung San Suu Kyi

1683. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.N. Secretary General is taking keen interest in early release of the nobel laurate Aung San Suu Kyi;

(b) if so, the role of India, the immediate neighbour of Myanmar in helping her release; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has consistently urged the Myanmar Government, including at the highest level, for the release of the Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest. We have also emphasized the need for the political reform process in Myanmar to be more inclusive and broad based.

(c) Does not arise.

More buses and trains to Pakistan

1684. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce more buses and trains to Pakistan to improve the Confidence Building Measures on both sides;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing route of journeys between the two countries; and

(d) the income so far generated on each route during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) During the Foreign Secretary level talks in the framework of the Composite Dialogue in June 2004,

India had proposed a number of cooperation measures to Pakistan for enhancing people-to-people contact across the International Border and Line of Control, including Jammu-Sialkot and Kargil-Skardu bus links. These proposals were reiterated thereafter, most recently during the Foreign Secretary level talks in January 2006. Pakistan has not accepted either bus link proposal.

(c) and (d) The income generated by the Delhi-Lahore bus service during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 in Rs. 2,35,07,348. TheAmritsar-Lahore bus service which was inaugurated on 24 January 2006 has generated Rs. 6,04,039 (as on 31 July 2006) and the Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service which commenced service from 24 March 2006 has generated Rs. 1,33,661 (as on 3.1 July 2006).

The Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service which was operationalized from 7 April 2005 has earned a revenue of Rs. 12,29,800 (as on 31 July 2006). The Poonch-Rawalakot bus which was inaugurated on 20 June 2006 has generated Rs. 30,730 (as on 31 July 2006).

There are two rail links between India and Pakistan. Approximate earnings from passenger and parcel traffic from the Samjhauta Express (Attari-Wagah) is Rs. 3,77,29,000 in 2004-05 and 2005-06. The Thar Express (Munabao-Khokharpar) which started service on 18 February 2006 has generated Rs. 36,98,000 till July 2006.

Rail Link between Jammu and Siyalkot (Pakistan)

1685. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to restore an old rail link between Jammu (India) and Siyalkot (Pakistan);

(b) if so, the details of the progress made; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.